

Application No. 10/004,623
Response dated September 24, 2008
Reply to Office Action of July 3, 2008

REMARKS:

Status of Claims

Claims 18-23 and 30-34 were previously pending. No changes are made to the claims by way of this Response.




Office Action

In the July 3, 2008, Office Action, the Examiner rejected all pending claims as being anticipated by Jones (US 6,542,825).

Jones is not a proper prior art reference

Jones was filed March 23, 2001, and claims priority to a March 24, 2000, provisional application. Thus, at most, Jones is only possibly entitled to an earliest effective priority date of March 24, 2000.

The present application was filed on December 3, 2001, and is a proper continuation of an application filed on August 13, 1999:

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Description				Parent Number	Parent Filing or 371(c) Date		Parent Status	Patent Number	
This application is a Continuation of				08/375,165	08-13-1999		Patented	6,350,172	

USPTO PAIR Data

As such, the earliest effective priority date for the present application is before the earliest possible effective priority date for Jones. Thus, Jones is not a prior art reference and its teachings cannot be used to anticipate or render obvious the pending claims.

Applicant submits that all claims are now in a condition for allowance. Should any questions remain, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned. Any additional fee which is due in connection with this Response should be applied against our Deposit Account No. 501-791.

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Respectfully submitted,

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